



*Maritime OPINTEL Report*

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)  
Report**

***1 December 2013 – 1 January 2014***

2 January 2014

*Maritime Crime/Piracy*

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**1. (U) Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides info on piracy threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

**2. (U) Summary**

1. (U) GHANA: On 31 December, an anchored general cargo vessel was boarded at Takoradi Roads.
2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 28 December, an anchored tanker experienced a boarding at Mamonal Anchorage, Cartagena.
3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 25 December, two fishermen were injured and nine others remain missing after armed pirates attacked a group of three fishing vessels in the waters near Zamboanga City.
4. (U) SINGAPORE STRAITS: On 18 December a barge under tow was boarded by robbers in the Singapore Straits.
5. (U) SINGAPORE STRAITS: On 13 December a barge under tow was boarded by robbers in the Singapore Straits.

### **3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for January 2014. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for January 2014. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at INMARSAT: 870-773-110-438, Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com. (MSCHOA)

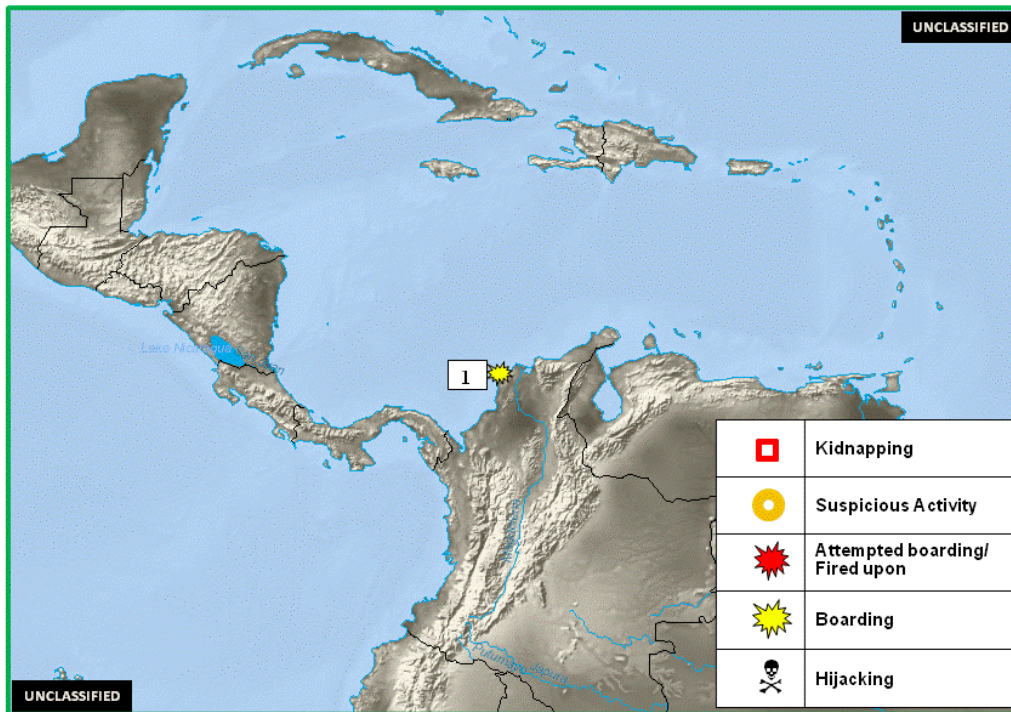
C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for January 2014. For further information, please e-mail [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn), or call Tel: 00870-773121302 Fax: 00870-783121735. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for January 2014. To register, email [antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com](mailto:antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com) or visit [www.dgshipping.com](http://www.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636. (MSCHOA)

### **4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:**

**Figure 1. South America Maritime Crime**

1. (U) **COLOMBIA:** On 28 December, robbers boarded an anchored tanker via the hawse near position 10:18 N – 075:32 W, Mamonal Anchorage, Cartagena. The robbers stole ship's properties and escaped unnoticed. The master reported the robbery to the local police authorities and port agent. (IMB)

2. (U) **BRAZIL:** On 22 December, a duty crewman noticed three armed robbers opening cargo containers on an anchored container vessel near position 24:07 S - 046:19 W, Santos Anchorage Area No. 4. The crewman was able to inform the bridge before being taken hostage by the robbers. When the alarm was raised, the robbers released the crewman and escaped in a small fast boat with cargo stolen from the containers. The Harbor Master was informed and soon afterward a Federal Police patrol arrived to investigate. (IMB)

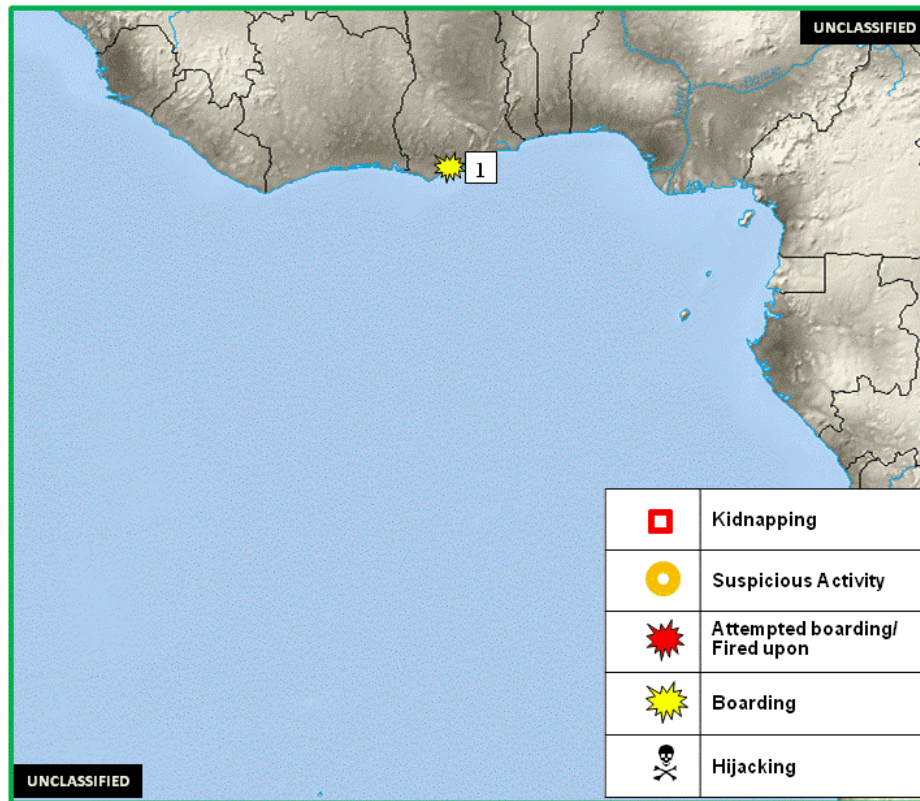
C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:**

1. (U) **MOROCCO:** On 19 December, two robbers attempted to board a berthed bulk carrier by climbing the stern mooring rope at position 32:18 N - 009:14 W, Safi Port. Alert duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew response, the robbers escaped in a small craft. (IMB)

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:** No current incidents to report.

## F. . (U) WEST AFRICA:



**Figure 2. West Africa Maritime Crime**

1. (U) GHANA: On 31 December, three robbers boarded an anchored general cargo vessel at position 04:53 N – 001:41 W, Takoradi Roads. When spotted by the security watch, the robbers fled without stealing anything. (IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 December, ten pirates attacked the Marshall Islands-flagged oil products tanker MT ALTHEA and its 18 crewmembers approximately 35 nm off the Niger Delta. After boarding the vessel, the pirates kidnapped the Ukrainian captain and a Greek engineer. (Reuters)

2. (U) CAMEROON: On 3 December, pirates boarded a coastal cargo vessel near position 04:20 N – 008:45 E, approximately 10 nm off the Cameroon coast. Two speedboats with eight pirates in each boat attacked the vessel and briefly board the vessel before a security team of Cameroon soldiers engaged the robbers in a firefight which forced the pirates to flee the ship. Several pirates were killed during the firefight. (www.news.odin.tc)

## G. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 9 December at 0348 UTC, five suspected armed pirates in a skiff approached a bulk cargo ship near position 12:52 N – 047:52 E, approximately 122 nm northwest of Bosaso, Somalia. The master raised alarm, activated fire hoses, sounded ship's

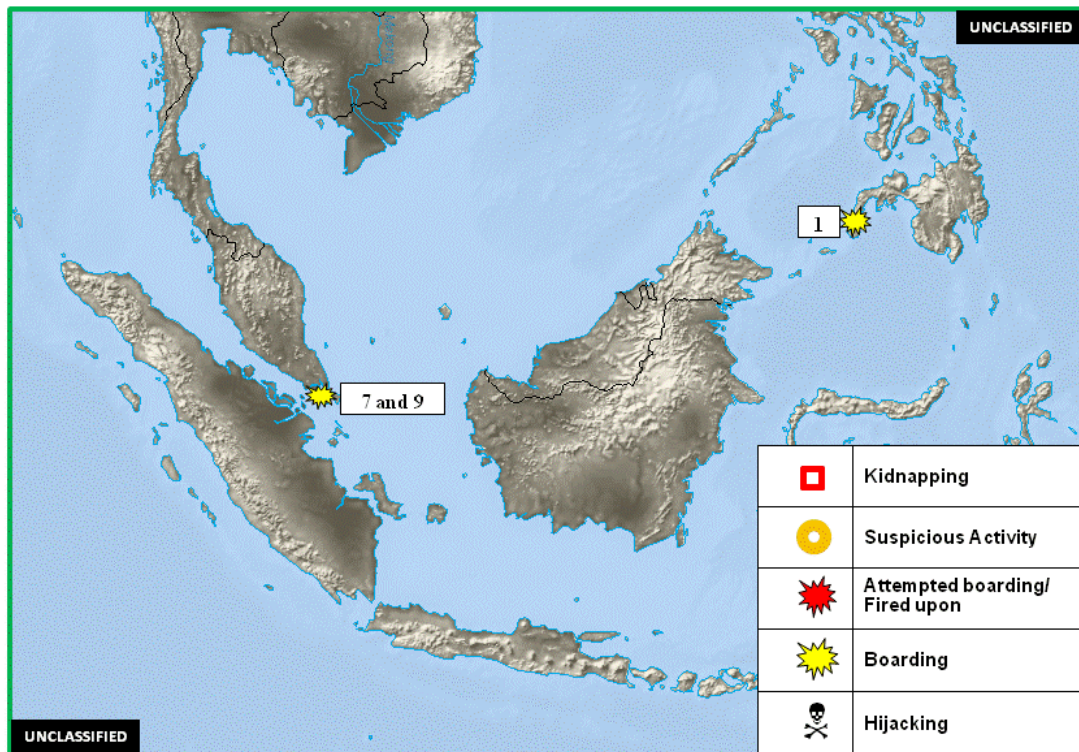


horn, and took evasive maneuvers while non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. The armed security team took their positions and showed their weapons, but the skiff continued to approach the ship even after the armed security team fired a warning flare towards the skiff. The security team then proceeded to fire warning shots as the skiff closed to the ship. The pirates responded by engaging the ship with small fire arms and the security team returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attempted boarding. A military helicopter came to the location to provide assistance and locate the pirates. (IMB, NATO Shipping Centre)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 9 December at 0330 UTC, five suspected pirates in a skiff attacked a tanker near position 12:50 N – 047:49 E, approximately 122 nm northwest of Bosaso, Somalia. The Master raised alarm, activated fire hoses, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers, and contacted UKMTO for assistance. The armed embarked security team took their positions and showed their weapons resulting in the pirates aborting the attempted boarding. A military helicopter came to the location to assist and locate the pirates. (IMB, NATO Shipping Centre)

H. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

I. . (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIAN SUBCONTINENT**:



**Figure 3. Southeast Asia Maritime Crime**

1. (U) **PHILIPPINES**: On 25 December, pirates attacked a group of three fishing vessels near Zamboanga City. Two fishermen escaped with gunshot wounds and nine remain missing. Authorities suspect the nine missing fishermen were also wounded during the attack. Cargo and

fuel was stolen. (ABS-CBNNEWS)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 December, robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 03:54 N - 098:47 E, approximately 7 nm from Belawan Port. The robbers broke into the ship forecastle store room, stole parts and equipment and escaped when spotted by duty crewmen. (IMB)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 December, robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 03:54 N - 098:47 E, approximately 9 nm of Belawan Port. The robbers broke into the ship's forward store room and escaped with stolen ship's property. (IMB)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 December, a speed boat approached at high speed an anchored chemical tanker near position 01:19 N – 104:16 E, approximately 3 nm south of Kampung Tanjun Che Lahom. Crew raised the alarm and the ship search light was directed towards the boat which had come alongside. Seeing the crew response, the speed boat moved away. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 December, robbers boarded a berthed tanker at position 03:47 N - 098:42 E, Belawan Port. The robbers broke into the ship's forward store room and escaped with stolen ship's property. (IMB)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 December, three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 00:15 S – 117:35 E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda. They broke into the forward store and stole ship property. The robbers departed the area in their wooden boat after the duty officer raised the alarm. (IMB)

7. (U) SINGAPORE STRAITS: On 18 December, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 01:15 N - 104:07 E, in the Singapore Straits and stole cargo. The master contacted authorities who dispatched a patrol craft to assist. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 December, a robber boarded an anchored crude oil tanker near position 00:06S - 117:34E, Santan Anchorage. Upon discovering the robber, the bridge raised the alarm which caused the robber to flee. The crew subsequently searched the ship and found nothing missing. (IMB)

9. (U) SINGAPORE STRAITS: On 13 December, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 01:14 N - 104:03 E, in the Singapore Straits. The robbers were armed with knives and stole cargo before departing. (IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 December, three to four robbers boarded an anchored tanker near position 01:06N – 103:37E, Nipah Anchorage. They were immediately spotted by the duty officer who raised the alarm. Upon seeing the crew response, the robbers fled in their boat. A thorough search of the vessel showed that none of the ship's stores or personal belongings were stolen. The accommodation area, engine room and stores were locked during the boarding. (IMB)

11. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 December, five robbers boarded an anchored tanker near position 01:25 N – 104:41 E, near Palau Bintan while the crew was busy performing tank cleaning

procedures. The duty engineer in the engine room noticed the robbers and informed bridge who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen engine spares. (IMB)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, four robbers armed with knives boarded anchored tanker conducting STS operations near position 01:07 N – 103:35 E, Nipah Anchorage. Upon discovering the robbers, the duty engineer raised the alarm. Seeing the crew response, the robbers escaped empty handed. (IMB)

13. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 December, a robber attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier near position 03:43S - 114:25E, Taboneo Anchorage via the hawse pipe. Duty crew on routine rounds saw the robber and immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped without stealing anything. (IMB)

14. (U) INDIA: On 4 December, three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:47N - 070:05E, Kandla Anchorage. The Officer on Watch spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing crew response, the robbers escaped with stolen ship property. (IMB)

15. (U) VIETNAM: On 2 December, robbers boarded a drifting container vessel near position 20:37 N – 107:10 E, near Norway Islands, Haiphong and stole ship's property. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds. (IMB)

16. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 December, a robber armed with a knife boarded an anchored tanker conducting STS operations near position 01:06 N – 103:38 E, Nipah Anchorage. When the duty crewman saw the robber during routine rounds, he notified the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew response, the robber escaped empty handed in a wooden boat. (IMB)

J. (U) **NORTH ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

## **5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

### **(U) Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

### **(U) Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm)

## 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

### (U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

### (U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)



- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 1 January 2014